



BITTERROOT WILDLAND FIRE USE COMPLEX

August 26th 7:00 am Fire Update

Fire Complex Location: Bitterroot National Forest in the Selway Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, west of Darby, Montana

Fire Complex Acreage: 17,844 acres

Fire Complex Status: Most of the fires started on July 18. The BH fire started on August 16 and the Ingomar Fire was added to the complex on August 22. Some of the fires have burned together or become inactive. Many of these fires may continue burning throughout the fire season while resource and fire management objectives continue to be met.

The numerous lightning fires in the wilderness have been grouped into four geographic areas within the Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Complex:

Sawtooth area- fire in the Sawtooth Creek drainage: Ingomar fire (76 acres)

White Cap area- fires north of Cooper Point and Watchtower Peak includes: El Cap (4,363 acres), Captain Creek (<1 acre), Watchtower (40 acres), and Snake (237).

Magruder area- fires south of the White Cap area and north of Salmon Mountain, and Storm Creek Flat includes: Indian (38 acres), South Saddle (352 acres), Magruder (3,144 acres), Magruder #2 (inactive), BH (693), Halfway Pete (4 acres), Haystack Creek (<1 acre), and Salamander fires (>1 acre).

Harrington Ridge area- fires south of the Magruder area, includes: Elkhorn Ridge (2,860 acres) and Harrington fires (6,073 acres).

CLOSURES

Expect closures along the Magruder Corridor road between the Magruder Ranger Station, Indian Creek Campground (to Paradise) and Salmon Base Camp (to Elk Creek) while active fire is burning in the area. Closures may last 24 to 48 hours or until fire and debris are clear of the road.

Contacts:

Fire Information: www.inciweb.org or (406) 821-1213
Bitterroot National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/
West Fork District Office: (406) 821-1213.

Sunday's Activities

Active fire behavior was observed Saturday on the Magruder and South Saddle fires with surface fire and group tree torching. Moderate activity was observed on the Elkhorn fire and minimal fire activity on other fires in the complex.

Expect closures along the Magruder Corridor road while active fire is burning in the area (see CLOSURES).

Heavier smoke from the Bell and Battle fires on the Nez Perce National Forest was experienced in drainages adjoining the Ingomar fire. The Ingomar fire itself was relatively inactive. A smoke column could be seen from the Magruder fire late in the afternoon.

Sunday's Weather



Sunny with a **RED FLAG WARNING** for high winds and low relative humidity between 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm

Temperature: 74-84° F

Winds: Southwest winds 13-19 mph with gusts to 30 mph

Relative Humidity: 12-19%

Smoke: Smoke was heavier in the morning and in drainages neighboring the Rombo, Bell Lake and Magruder fires.

Wildland Fire Use



Wildland fire use events are naturally-ignited fires managed over a long period of time to restore the role of fire as a critical natural process.

The long-term implementation plan uses the best available science to predict where and when the fires may approach areas of concern. Management actions are identified and developed that will assist personnel in keeping the fire within predetermined boundaries and away from areas of concern.

The South Sweeney Fire, on the Stevensville Ranger District, has shown no smoke in recent days.

Official closures of areas, roads and trails resulting from fire activity change almost daily. Please call the Bitterroot NF at 406-363-7176 or visit www.inciweb.org for the most current closure and fire activity information.

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